Cabo Rojo Groundwater Contamination

Puerto Rico

EPA ID#: PRN000206319

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 98

Cabo Rojo

Cross Stre. Calle Barbosa & Calle Dediego

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 10/21/2010
Final Date: 3/10/2011

Site Description

The Cabo Rojo Ground Water Contamination site ("Cabo Rojo site") consists of a ground water plume with no identified source(s) of contamination located in the municipality of Cabo Rojo Puerto Rico.

Ground water samples collected by Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) from 2002 to 2006 indicated the presence of tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) in public supply wells within the Cabo Rojo Urbano System, in particular the Ana Maria well, Club de Leones, and Hacienda Margarita. Ground water samples collected by EPA in July 2006 and September 2009 confirmed the presence of PCE and TCE in the Ana Maria well. Recent data submitted by PRASA shows that the contamination still exists in these three wells below the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)

Threat and Contaminants

Chlorinated solvents (i.e., PCE, TCE, cis-1,2-dichloroethene, and 1,1-dichloroethene) are present in the Ana Maria, Club de Leones, and Hacienda Margarita drinking water wells. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) evaluated available data and the site conditions, and conducted a site visit to complete a Public Health Assessment. A Public Health Assessment report was released for public comments in October 2011. ATSDR stated in its draft public health assessment for the Cabo Rojo Ground Water Contamination site in Cabo Rojo, PR that current exposures to VOCs in municipal water are not expected to harm public health. Low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been found in some municipal water supply wells, but none of the VOCs measured have exceeded federal drinking water standards. PRASA continues to sample and submit the results to EPA, who is closely monitoring the analytical data from all the wells to ensure that the VOCs in the drinking water are below the Maximum Contaminant Levels as per the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In June of 2011, samples collected at potential sources showed the contaminants of concern in high concentrations under the concrete slabs. In February and March of 2012 while assessing the vapor intrusion pathway EPA collected subslabs, indoor, and ambient air samples within a 150' radius of the potential sources. PCE, TCE, and DCE were detected in subslabs samples at four potential sources, four schools and a few businesses. However, all of the indoor air samples collected at the schools, businesses, and residences show that no harmful levels of VOCs were found in indoor air. Although the last sampling results showed there are no public health concern; EPA may determine that a soil vapor gas mitigation system be installed in locations where sub-slab samples indicates high concentrations of PCE, TCE, DCE, and/or their by-products. EPA will continue monitoring the structures with high concentrations of VOCs under the slab.

Cleanup Approach

From November 2006 through June 2007, EPA conducted site reconnaissance activities at 68 facilities and collected soil and ground water samples from 13 facilities in an effort to identify the source of contamination. Although EPA did not identify the source of ground water contamination in the public supply wells, chlorinated solvents were detected at three facilities: D'Elegant Fantastic Dry Cleaners, Extasy Q Prints, and Cabo Rojo Professional Dry Cleaners.

There is an ongoing Remedial Investigation (RI) and Removal Assessment (RA). In June 2011 EPA collected soil gas vapor (SGV) samples from sub-slabs and beneath the subsurface at 13 properties (including 8 new sites) in an effort to identify possible sources. The SGV samples confirmed an additional potential source on a former dry cleaner known as Serrano Dry Cleaners II. High concentrations of the contaminants of concern were also detected in a sub-slab SGV sample collected at a pre-school. Additional SGV sub-slabs collected in February/March 2012 will help us assess the extent of contamination in in the known sources.

Cleanup Progress

EPA will be conducting a Fund Lead Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) in order to determine the magnitude and extend of the contamination and to identify potential responsible parties.

Field work for the Remedial Investigation activities started in June 2011. During the sampling activities of 2011 EPA collected a total of 95 Soil Gas Vapor Samples at 13 sites, confirming chlorinated solvents at the 3 sites mentioned above plus the discovery of one additional site. A total of 175 samples were collected in February/ March 2012 to assess vapor intrusion pathway and extent of contamination on the known sources.

Site Repositories

US EPA Region 2 New York, Superfund Records Center Room 1828, 18-th Floor, 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007 (212) 637-3043

US EPA Caribbean Environmental Protection Division, City View Plaza II – Suite 7000 #48 Rd. 165 km 1.2 Guaynabo, PR 00968-8069 (787) 977-5870

From May 15, 2012 (Desde el 15 de mayo del 2012 en adelante): Biblioteca Blanca E. Colberg Calle Jose De Diego #48 Cabo Rojo, PR (al lado del Cuartel de la Policia Estatal) (787) 851-2424